

Attorney Docket No.: J3646(C)
Serial No.: 10/502,021
Filed: July 20, 2004
Confirmation No.: 8722

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) Cosmetic or personal care composition comprising: gelled particles, wherein the gelled particles comprise water and at least 50% by volume of the particles have an aspect ratio of at least 5 and a maximum width of 40 μ m; and at least one cosmetically acceptable material selected from surfactants, hair conditioning agents, perfume or fragrances and hair styling polymers, wherein the composition is in the form of a product selected from the group consisting of personal wash products, shampoos, hair conditioners, scalp lotions, hair tonics, and hair styling products.

Claims 2 (Original) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least 20% by volume of the particles have an aspect ratio of at least 10 and a maximum width of 20 μ m.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least 5% by volume of the particles have an aspect ratio of at least 50 and a maximum width of 2 μ m.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein greater than 90% of the particles have a minimum width of 0.5 μ m.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelled particles comprise a gelling polymer.

Claim 6 (Original) Composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the gelling polymer is selected from kappa-carrageenan, gellan, gelatin and alginate.

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Claim 7 (Original) Composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein the gelling polymer is kappa-carrageenan.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelled particles are present in the composition in an amount of from 0.1% to 60% by volume of the composition.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, which is a hair treatment composition.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, which is a shampoo composition comprising from 1% to 50% by weight of one or more surfactants.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 9, which is a hair conditioning composition comprising from 0.1% to 30% by weight of one or more hair conditioning agents.

Claim 12 (Original) Composition as claimed in claim 9, which is a hair styling composition comprising from 0.1% to 10% by weight of one or more hair styling polymers.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) Composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelled particles comprise a hair benefit agent.

Claim 14 (Original) Composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hair benefit agent is selected from hair and skin conditioners, hair and skin cleansers, hair fixatives, hair dyes, hair growth promoters, permanent wave compounds, hair relaxers, hair

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straighteners, antibacterial compounds, antifungal compounds and anti-inflammatory compounds.

Claim 15 (Original) Method of treating hair comprising applying to the hair a composition comprising gelled particles comprising water, wherein at least 50% by volume of the particles have an aspect ratio of at least 5 and a maximum width of 40 μ m.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) Process for producing a cosmetic or personal care composition according to claim 1 which comprises forming the gelled particles and then bringing the gelled particles into contact with the at least one cosmetically acceptable material.

Claim 19 (Original) Process as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the gelled particles are formed by a method comprising the steps of:

- a) mixing two aqueous phases each comprising a polymer, wherein at least one of the polymers is a gelling polymer;
- b) treating the mixture according to a) such that one of the phases is present in the form of droplets in the second phase;
- c) subjecting the mixture to shear flow; and
- d) causing the polymer to gel during or after step (c).

Claim 20 (Original) Process as claimed in Claim 19 wherein step (c) is carried out in a flow through device, or an array of parallel flow through devices that are adapted to subject the mixture to shear flow.

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Claim 21 (Previously Presented) Process for producing a cosmetic or personal care composition according to claim 1 that comprises a surfactant, which process comprises forming the gelled particles in the presence of the surfactant.